

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A crackle finish for a surface comprising a dried base coat of a latex paint or stain disposed on the surface, a crackle medium disposed on the dried base coat, said crackle medium adapted to contract when a water-based stain or paint is applied to the dried crackle medium, a coat of latex wood filler disposed on the dried crackle medium whereby the latex wood filler forms raised islands or domains separated by cracks or valleys revealing glimpses of the underlying base coat.

Claim 2 (original). The crackle finish of claim 1 wherein the crackle medium is tack dried before the latex wood filler is applied.

Claim 3 (original). The crackle finish of claim 2 wherein the latex wood filler is embossed with a design before it is dried.

Claim 4 (original). The crackle finish of claim 1 wherein the latex wood filler comprises an acrylic binding resin, talc, fillers and water.

Claim 5 (previously amended). A method of forming a crackle finish on a surface comprising the steps of applying a base coat of a latex paint or stain to the surface, drying the base coat, applying a crackle medium to the base coat, said crackle medium adapted to contract when a water-based stain or paint is applied,

drying the crackle medium at least to tack dry, applying a latex wood filler coat to the crackle medium, drying the latex wood filler coat, applying a top coat of latex paint to the latex wood filler coat, drying the top coat.

Claim 6 (original). The method of claim 5 wherein the latex wood filler coat is embossed with a design before it is dried.

Claim 7 (original). The method of claim 5 wherein the surface is wood and a sealer coat is applied to the surface before the base coat is applied.

Claim 8 (currently amended). A kit for forming a crackle finish on a surface, said kit comprising a latex paint or stain for forming a base coat, a crackle medium for application over the base coat, said crackle medium is adapted to contract when a water-based stain or paint is applied, and a latex wood filler for application over the crackle medium.

Claim 9 (original). The kit of claim 8 further comprising a latex paint for application over the latex wood filler as a top coat.

Claim 10 (original). The kit of claim 8 wherein the latex wood filler comprises an acrylic binding resin, talc, fillers and water.